

STATINTL

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL SECURITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

MEMO

[REDACTED]

I want you to know that the attached syndicated column about this Committee's first business meeting is almost 100% inaccurate. In particular, the statement that the Committee "voted on resolutions"..."to determine if police ...are abusing their authority against subversives" is completely false. The subject never came up at the meeting.

Bob Horner
Robert M. Horner
Chief Investigator

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Ray Cromley / More early research Arlo Wagner / Rites right



"Left" has come to mean "liberal" while right means "conservative" and by strange twists of coincidence, that is the way they will appear to witnesses before the house internal security committee.

The committee has met in closed session to organize itself. Taking their seats in order of seniority, here is the spectrum as they will appear to witnesses:

Far left, Robert F. Drinan, D-Mass., a Catholic priest who has outspokenly supported the most liberal movements in America today.

Next left, Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., a former judge beginning a second term in Congress who has been regarded generally as a liberal.

Next, Edwin Edwards, D-La., third term, called a moderate.

Close to center, Claude Pepper, D-Fla., whose record against crime parallels the position of conservatives but otherwise seems to be a liberal.

Center, the chairman, Richard H. Ichord, D-Mo., who one committee member said "is entirely objective."

Right of center, John M. Ashbrook, R-Ohio, a moderate.

Right, Roger Zorn, R-Ill., who has a conservative voting record.

Farther right, Fletcher Thompson, R-Ga., who was reduction over the challenge of Democratic, liberal black, Julian Bond.

Far right, John G. Schmitz, R-Calif., who has been identified with the John Birch Society for his strong conservative stands.

Father Drinan was watched with curiosity and wry amusement as the first meeting of the committee in the 92d Congress got under way.

Everyone knew he was introducing a bill to abolish the committee and that he had publicly defended some of the organizations which the committee had investigated.

During the organization meeting, he was seen but not heard much, wearing his clerical collar, he met members usually with the greeting, "Just call me Bill," and to a couple he added, "Let's have a drink sometime."

Rep. Ichord opened the meeting by introducing members all around. He briefly explained the committee's responsibilities, prefacing it with the comment, "If we aren't

Then the committee voted on resolutions to give itself powers to investigate and conduct hearings on legislation affecting persons or groups threatening America, or to determine police or governments are abusing their authority against minorities.

There were resolutions to authorize issuance of subpoenas to review the income tax returns of individuals and organizations before investigating, and to require employees in sensitive government positions to sign statements that they are not, and have not been, members of Communists or subversive groups.

Father Drinan voted against every resolution, except in a couple instances when he didn't vote at all.